

making voter information easily accessible. The league's election information Web site—vote411.org—is an invaluable resource for many Americans, providing information on voter registration and on local, State, and national issues.

The league has been instrumental in promoting democracy and civil society abroad, too. After World War II, for instance, the league supported efforts to establish the United Nations, U.N., and became one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization, NGO. The league also supported the creation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Marshall plan. The league maintains official observer status at the U.N. today and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council. The league served as an NGO delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December. Through its Global Democracy Program, the league has sponsored cultural exchange programs and leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, and Brazil.

Throughout my career in public service, I have participated in many League of Women Voters debates, and I have seen first-hand the impact that the league has had on educating the voters about the issues that most directly affect them. We are a stronger democracy thanks to the continuing efforts of the League of Women Voters.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the profound impact the League of Women Voters has had on our Nation throughout its 90-year history. I look forward to working with the league in the future to ensure that Marylanders and all Americans have the information they need to make informed decisions on election day. And I welcome and support the league's ongoing efforts to "export" what is best about our democracy to countries around the world. We are fortunate indeed such an organization exists.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, earlier this week, as a result of multiple flight cancellations due to the significant snowstorm in Washington, DC, I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 468, the nomination of Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr. to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit and cloture on Executive Calendar No. 688, the nomination of Craig Becker to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted to confirm Mr. Greenaway to the Third Circuit, and would have voted against cloture on the nomination of Craig Becker because of my concerns that, based on his previous statements, he would inappropriately bring his far out of the mainstream personal beliefs and agenda to the NLRB.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING CLU COTTER,
KEVIN O'CONNOR, TOM
STOLBERG, AND DENNIS DONOVAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Clu Cotter, Kevin O'Connor, Tom Stolberg and Dennis Donovan. Clu Cotter, Kevin O'Connor, and Tom Stolberg, employees of the California Department of Fish and Game, and Dennis Donovan, a helicopter pilot, tragically lost their lives on January 5 as a result of a helicopter crash that occurred during an aerial deer survey in eastern Madera County.

Mr. Clu Cotter was the California Department of Fish and Game associate wildlife biologist stationed in Fresno. He studied the North Kings and San Joaquin deer herd populations, and rare carnivores in the high Sierra. He was often called on to hike or ski into remote rugged areas for his work. He was admired by his colleagues for his positive attitude and devotion to his family, as well as his humor and endurance. In his spare time, he was an avid outdoorsman with a keen sense of adventure and a deep love for nature. In 1985, he used his outdoor survival expertise to successfully rescue a group of hikers who were caught in a lightning storm in Yosemite National Park. A devotee of cyclocross, a form of bicycle racing that combines elements of cross country cycling and mountain biking, Mr. Cotter was renowned as one of the most accomplished mountain and distance bicyclists in Central California. Mr. Cotter is survived by his wife Marni Cotter and two sons Ren and Jamie. He was 48 years old.

Mr. Kevin O'Connor was a Supervising Biologist in the California Department of Fish and Game region 4 office. After graduating from the University of California at Davis in 1993, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in central and northern California. He later joined the Department of Fish and Game and was promoted to senior wildlife biologist in 2005, a position in which he oversaw wildlife management in nine counties. He was a dedicated scientist who did extensive work on the ecological reserves of the San Joaquin Valley and with protected and game species in the southern Sierra Nevada range. He sought to elevate the quality of scientific information used for wildlife management and other activities, such as timber harvest. His expertise and leadership qualities earned him the respect of his colleagues. Mr. O'Connor is survived by his wife Keri; daughters Kayleigh, Michelle, McKenna; and son Aidan. He was 40 years old.

Mr. Tom Stolberg joined the Department of Fish and Game in 2004 as a scientific aide in the wildlife management office in Fresno. Tom was the first person most people talked to when contacting Wildlife Management, and soon became expert in providing the public

sound information on hunting, and wildlife in general. Tom also assisted with wildlife habitat projects, capturing deer for telemetry studies, and managing special public hunts. A man of many talents and interests, ranging across hunting, medieval reenactments, metalworking, gourmet cooking, and more, he was described by his mother as a walking encyclopedia who could speak with authority on everything from sewing to World War II history. An Eagle Scout, he remained active in the Boy Scouts by leading young people on trips through Yosemite National Park. He will be fondly remembered for his professionalism, intellect, and his warm and gregarious personality. Mr. Stolberg is survived by his parents, brother, and sister. He was 31 years old.

Mr. Dennis Donovan, a Navy veteran, was an experienced pilot who had been flying since 1964. He served three combat tours in Vietnam and worked as a naval flight instructor in Florida, and for the USGS and Mercy Air. He worked for Landalls Aviation for almost 30 years and had flown for State and Federal agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Game for survey flights. Mr. Donovan is survived by his wife Arlene; two sons Matthew and Douglas; and five grandchildren. He was 70 years old.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of Clu Cotter, Kevin O'Connor, Tom Stolberg and Dennis Donovan. They valiantly sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of science, conservation and public service. Their exemplary service epitomizes the commitment and courage that Department of Fish and Game employees exhibit on a daily basis, often with little or no fanfare, in their effort to enhance the public enjoyment of California's abundant and diverse native wildlife, fish and plant species and their natural communities. Their goodness, dedication and accomplishments are appreciated and will not be forgotten.

We shall always be grateful for the sacrifice that Clu Cotter, Kevin O'Connor, Tom Stolberg and Dennis Donovan made in giving their lives to help make California a better place. They will be missed.●

RECOGNIZING BRUBAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Brubaker Elementary School in Des Moines, IA, which was granted the Energy Star Rating in recognition of its achievements and practices in energy conservation.

The Energy Star Program is jointly managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This program encourages many facets of energy efficiency. In order to attain the Energy Star Rating, schools